

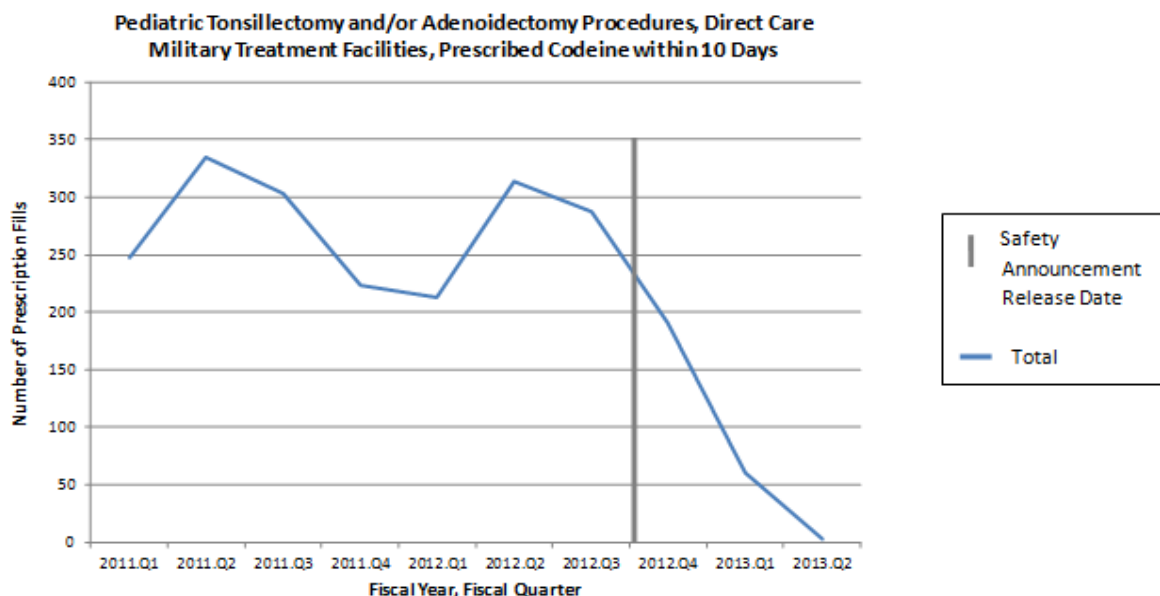
HA Communications Reduce Risk for Pediatric Tonsillectomy and Adenoidectomy Patients Receiving Post-Operative Codeine

Summary

The Health Analysis Department (HA) provided outreach support for the FDA's safety announcement on pediatric deaths following the administration of codeine after tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy. HA accessed Military Health System (MHS) data to develop an innovative risk communications factsheet targeting MHS specialty leaders in pediatrics, pharmacy, ENT, and family medicine, with the intention of raising awareness across the DoD. HA's outreach resulted in a reduction in codeine prescriptions among tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy patients treated in Military Treatment Facilities. HA has similar capability to support other quality improvement activities to improve patient outcomes and reduce costs.

Background

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) posted a safety announcement on August 15, 2012 regarding the use of codeine following pediatric tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy procedures. HA analyzed prescription rates across beneficiaries of all services to determine the prevalence of this potentially harmful clinical practice. Despite the FDA alert, data indicated patients were receiving codeine post operatively. HA disseminated communication materials to relevant specialty leaders to raise awareness across the MHS.



Key Points:

- HA interventions, in conjunction with the FDA alert, significantly reduced the rate of potentially harmful codeine prescriptions among children receiving tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy procedures.
- Statistical modeling demonstrated a cause and effect relationship between the communication interventions and a decrease in codeine prescription fills among these patients.
- HA has the capabilities to produce additional quality improvement strategies tailored to a variety of clinical issues.

